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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out enlarging variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the single first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for carrying out reducing variable-magnification processing, the reducing variable magnification unit writing image data to the single first-in, first-out memory after reducing variable-magnification processing is carried out during image reduction,

wherein the enlarging variable magnification unit and the reducing variable magnification unit are separate units which read image data from and/or write image data to the same single first-in, first-out memory.

Claims 2-8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of the image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing a number of the image forming means to which one line worth of the image data is

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outputted by increasing and decreasing a number of the turning-on switching means by on/off-controlling the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein each of the plurality of output lines from the line memory is connected in parallel to the plurality of image forming means.

10. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or

a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction.

13. (Previously presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is an enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor when the variable magnification processing is a reduction.

14. (Previously presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 9, wherein an enlarging variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of an enlarging variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction or

a reducing variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of a reducing variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction.